

FIREFIGHTER/OPERATOR

(Competitive Class)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

The class of Firefighter/Operator comprises entrance level positions in the fire suppression division of fire department operations. Employees of this class receive training in and perform firefighting and fire suppression tasks such as controlling and extinguishing fires, performing rescue work, and driving and operating fire department vehicles. Employees of this class are also responsible for the maintenance of fire apparatus, fire department equipment, the fire station, and for completing records as assigned. Employees of this class perform duties under the supervision of and have work reviewed by a Fire Captain. This class reports to and ranks immediately below that of Fire Captain.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Examples listed below are illustrative only. They are not intended to include all duties which may be assigned, neither are they intended to exclude other duties which may be logical assignments to this class.

Trains for, performs, and maintains proficiency in firefighting and rescue tasks such as connecting, carrying, and operating hose lines; directing fire streams and agents; forcible entry; ventilation; using ladders and other equipment to aid in fighting fires and removing fire and accident victims to safety. Responds to medical emergency calls, and administers first aid, CPR and emergency care to the public.

Selects shortest available route to fire or emergency scene. Drives fire apparatus to and from scene of fire or emergency, following all laws and safety regulations, making adjustments for navigational problems. Communicates with dispatcher and fire vehicles using two-way radio. Positions apparatus and primes the pump to supply adequate pressure to the nozzle. Operates pumper until connected to water supply source. Connects hoses to hydrants or standpipes, controls water flow and repairs or replaces burst hose sections. Calculates required water flow, friction loss, and discharge pressure necessary for fire suppression. Performs truck operations such as operating boom, ladders and other aerial apparatus. Observes and responds to changes in fireground conditions. Locates and extinguishes source of fire. Identifies and protects potential fire exposures from fire extension using direct streams or water curtains. Enters smoke-filled building using self-contained breathing apparatus. Locates and operates shut-off valves for gas or electricity in building to reduce hazards. Operates sprinkler systems to suppress fire or to test.

Participates in search and rescue operations in order to locate and remove trapped victims from buildings, vehicles or other confined spaces. Performs salvage tasks necessary to protect property from damage using covers, tarps, or other materials. Secures windows and doors and covers openings to protect structure. Constructs catch-alls and chutes to trap and dispose of water. Performs overhaul operations by locating and extinguishing hidden fires and hot spots and by removing burning mattresses, furniture, debris and charred waste from building. Tears down or shores up weak and dangerous structural components. Wedges or clamps sprinklers after fire is extinguished to shut off flow of water. Resets alarms and restores sprinkler systems.

Identifies causes of fires to determine how they started. Observes spectators at the fire scene and questions witnesses to determine fire cause. Informs officer in charge of suspected arson. Recognizes, notes, and preserves evidence of arson.

Trains for and maintains proficiency in the procedures for special emergencies such as HAZMAT leaks, high rise fires, building cave-ins, etc. Reads and recognizes HAZMAT symbols to identify flammable or hazardous materials. Acts to contain hazardous material spill or control spread. Removes containers of flammable or hazardous materials at the fire scene under direction of a superior officer.

Attends and participates in assigned training drills either as an individual or as a member of a group. Reads and studies assigned material related to performance of work. Learns and maintains proficiency in the use and purpose of fire fighting equipment, fireground formulas, tools, and fireground operations. Studies direct routes, location of streets, water mains, and hydrants in response area. Participates in critical evaluations of each fire and the department's response to it.

Cleans, dries, tests, inspects, maintains and properly secures any assigned fire fighting equipment such as fire apparatus, communications equipment, hoses, nozzles, hand tools, self-contained breathing apparatus, turn-out gear, ladders, or related equipment. Determines if fire fighting equipment is operating properly and ready for service. Performs periodic tests of apparatus pumping capacity and pressure. Maintains inventory of and makes minor repairs to tools and equipment. Removes or replaces equipment on apparatus using checklist or knowledge of equipment.

Inspects buildings or private residences to prevent fire hazards, to verify that smoke and heat detecting devices are working properly and to ensure compliance with fire codes. Participates in pre-fire planning inspections for public and private properties. Draws preplanning maps and diagrams. Conducts fire drills in schools and businesses. Updates hydrant

maps and vital building books. Inspects fire hydrants for defects and performs routine maintenance by periodically flushing hydrants to remove rust and sediment.

Presents oneself in proper attire during a tour of duty. Performs tasks necessary for the proper maintenance of the station house and grounds such as cleaning floors, windows, driveways and sidewalks, changing linens, emptying trash cans, mowing grass and other minor maintenance duties. Inspects fire station and notifies officer in charge of needed repairs. Assists in preparing meals for firefighters at the station and cleans kitchen area. Provides for the security of the station by locking station doors and securing valuable items.

Performs public relations duties such as calming excited citizens at a fire scene or responding to questions and complaints from the public. Conducts fire station tours and explains fire equipment and firefighting techniques to visiting public. Works with local youth groups and other community groups, delivering lectures or demonstrations on fire prevention and fire safety.

Completes any forms, records, or reports as required.

Performs related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements must be met by the filing deadline for application for admission to the examination.

Must meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States and of legal age.

After offer of employment, but before beginning work in this class, must pass a physical examination, the selection and administration of which shall be authorized by the Appointing Authority, designed to demonstrate good health and physical fitness sufficient to perform the essential duties of the position, with or without accommodation.

Must present documentation indicating, at a minimum, that the applicant has met the minimum high school graduation requirements necessary to receive a high school diploma as established by the state of Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Such documentation shall include at least one of the following: high school diploma, high school transcript, certificate of equivalency, affidavit from the issuing high school, college diploma, or college transcript, any one of which must indicate that graduation has occurred or a degree awarded. A certification of completion shall not be sufficient to substitute for certification of graduation.

Must possess a valid driver's license.

Must not be less than 21 years of age.